



Rob Oakeshott MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

21 December 2010

### **ASIA-PACIFIC LEADERS ADOPT ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

MALE Parliamentarians representing 13 Asia-Pacific nations have agreed to a range of measures to minimise violence against women and girls following a meeting in Port Macquarie.

A Statement of Commitment (see attached), signed by all members of the Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls, has set out a number of actions to be undertaken by delegates within their own countries.

These include working with their fellow Parliamentarians to raise public awareness on the role that men and boys can play in violence prevention, working with relevant non-government organizations and community initiatives and enacting legislation, policies and programs that reduce and prevent violence against women and children.

Independent MP for Lyne Robert Oakeshott, who hosted the meeting, said the group would re-convene next year to report on progress.

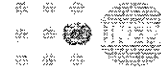
"The success of today will be judged by the achievements after this meeting, but at this stage a good set of actions has been agreed to," Mr Oakeshott said.

The Standing Committee was established in 2009 to achieve greater empowerment of women through improved sexual and reproductive health and increasing the involvement of men and boys in addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Oakeshott, representing Australia on the Standing Committee, was joined at the meeting in Port Macquarie by MPs from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

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**Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls**

**Collective Statement of Commitment**

Port Macquarie, Australia

18 December 2010

We, male Parliamentarians representing 13 countries from the Asia and Pacific region, gathered together on 18 December 2010 to carry forward the work of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development "Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls".

The Standing Committee recognises the vital role that Members of Parliament can play in promoting policies that will help reduce violence against women and children and prevent violence in the future. We also recognise the unique role that individual men can play in supporting violence prevention efforts in partnership with women as role models within our own families and communities.

As we come from a diverse set of countries from across the region, with different challenges to address the issue of violence against women and children, we have made individual pledges to take action in our home countries and within our own constituencies.

In addition, we recognise the issue of ending violence against women and children is of critical importance for all countries and communities across our region, and indeed across the globe, as a priority for achieving equality, security, development and peace.

Thus, we use our collective voice as a group of male Parliamentarians to call upon our peers within all governments in the Asia and Pacific region to join in taking the following actions:

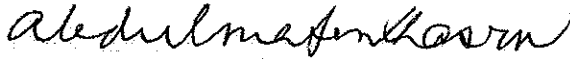
1. Being role models as male leaders who speak up against all forms of violence against women and children and promote Zero Tolerance.
2. Actively participate in public awareness campaigns and raise our voice on what men and boys can do for violence prevention.
3. Advocate for all male parliamentarians to join this cause.
4. Enact and support legislation, policies and programmes that reduce and prevent violence against women and children.
5. Support and work in partnership with non-government organizations and community initiatives to promote good practices and effective interventions.
6. Provide and share information within and among parliaments, and we will support the efforts of women parliamentarians to address the root causes of discrimination and abuse and stand together to do all we can to end violence against women and girls in our region.

We collectively encourage other Members of Parliament and the public to join this cause.

Signed 18 December 2010



Mr. Robert Oakeshott, MP Australia



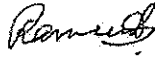
Hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru, MP Bangladesh 18/12/2010.



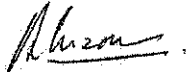
Hon. Mr. Naichu, MP Bhutan



HE Mr. Ouk Damry, MP Cambodia



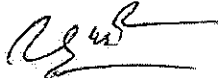
Hon. Mr. Ramen Deka, MP India



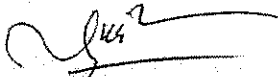
Hon. Dr. Nizar Shihab, MP Indonesia



Hon. Mr. Ezzatollah Eza Yousefian Molla, MP Iran



Hon. Mr. Douangdy Outhachak, MP Lao PDR



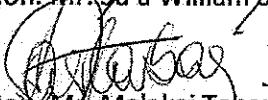
Hon. Datuk Dr. Tekhee Lafe, MP Malaysia



Hon. Dr. Mohd Hatta Md Ramli, MP Malaysia



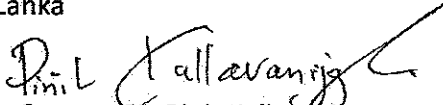
Hon. Mr. Su'a William Sio, MP New Zealand



Hon. Mr. Malakai Tapar, MP Papua New Guinea



Hon. Mr. Tissa Karalliyada  
Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs  
Sri Lanka



Hon. Senator Dr. Pinit Kullavanijaya  
MP Thailand, Secretary-General AFPPD